

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
BRUNSWICK SENIOR CENTER
July 14, 2008**

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Suzan M. Adams	Cathy Barnes	Rae Ann Butler		
William P. Allen, PhD	Margaret Nusbaum	Lloyd Hoover		
Earl S. Beck, PhD	Susan M Ramsburg Recording Sec	Charles A. Jenkins, Comm.		
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair	Carolyn True	Ona M. John Kile		
Judy Hallman				
Alan Imhoff, Alderman				
Louise Lynch				
Burt Shawver				
Virginia Skelley				
Anna Mary Snyder				
Robert Wannemacher				

- I. **Call to Order** – Hal Ehart, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Hal Ehart welcomed all attendees and introductions/affiliations were made.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the June 9, 2008 meeting were approved without changes. All were in favor.
- IV. **Commissioner's Report** – no report at this time.
- V. **Discussion concerning the City of Frederick's senior tax credit program-Alderman Imhoff** - The tax credit for city residents is being discussed by the Mayor and Board of Alderman. Officials are waiting to review criteria set by the state to set up the guidelines for age, assets, and income levels. Residency rules have not been discussed at this time. The tax credit would be five percent off the city property tax. The credit would be on an annual basis and will require reapplication each year. There could be a retro credit for 2009 if tax credit is adopted this year. A letter of support for this proposal will be sent from this Commission.

Comments from Brunswick seniors-Cathy Barnes – No comments or complaints from the Brunswick seniors. The town officials are supportive of the senior center. The town has assisted financially toward the success of the center. A grant is pending that would allow the renovation of another (larger) building. The center would share this building with other organizations. This would allow for additional activities that the current building cannot accommodate. This senior center utilizes the van consistently to provide transportation to shopping and medical facilities.

Approval of the '09 Area Plan Update-Carolyn True – The Area Plan is a review of the state and federal funds and which programs those funds support. Also included is the amount of county funds we receive. It is submitted to the state and represents the needs of our jurisdiction. The Senior Care Program is our largest funded program. As of September 2nd the state is going to have a three percent cut in overall funding. If the cut is across the board, each jurisdiction will need to absorb a \$38,000 cut. The decision on how this cut will be made will be decided in mid August by state officials. Carolyn will be bringing this to the attention of the county commissioners at the July 31st meeting.

There may be less funding available next year. Seniors need to work together to advocate for one central agenda. The Lobbying 101/Advocacy seminar is a good first step. A subcommittee from this Commission will need to meet more often after this seminar. The first advocacy training should be well attended in Hagerstown.

Status of newspaper articles for publication in the Gazette-Louise Lynch – Mary Collins and Mindy Lohmann-Hinz have written an excellent article on the Caregiver Program that is to be submitted. The subcommittee will continue to work on this project.

Citizen's Nursing Home and Rehab-Earl Beck – The recent meeting went smoothly and was well attended. The plans for the new building will be submitted for bids. Once the building is completed and opened, the facility will not require any subsidy from the county. The Department of Aging would like to have the food program come out of the new facility. Tentative date for completion is 12/2010. All support for this project is very appreciated.

Affordable Housing-Pete Allen – Affordable Housing Council has been reorganized and has new by-laws and membership. Land is either unavailable or is unaffordable. Victoria Park has been a major achievement. Some municipalities may take advantage of foreclosed

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homes to purchase homes for affordable housing. There is some funding available to help with down payments and some mortgages.

VI. Director's Report – Nothing to report at this time.

Margaret reports that The UpCounty Family Center will become part of the Family Partnership under the Citizens Services Division as of January, 2009. The previous sponsor was not able to continue supporting the Family Center.

Carolyn will be meeting with the BOCC and the municipalities at their meeting this Thursday afternoon. They will be discussing a Memorandum of Understanding that was submitted to the Town of Thurmont. The Town of Thurmont requested the Memorandum be placed on the agenda of this meeting. This is an open meeting for anyone wishing to attend.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

NEXT MEETING: September 8, 2008, 1:00 pm at the **Urbana Senior Center**, 9020 Amelung Street, Frederick, MD 21704. If you plan to have lunch, please make a reservation no later than 9am on September 4, 2008 by calling 301-600-7020.

There is no August meeting.